

2008 - Alabama Year in Review



In Alabama, tornadoes, thunderstorm wind damage, severe hail, and/or flash floods were reported on 89 days in 2008. The number of severe weather days decreased by 14 compared to 2007. Severe weather stats from 2008 and total number of severe weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service for these events is shown below.

SEVERE WEATHER STATS

Ninety-three tornadoes were reported on 21 days in 2008 (compared to 42 tornadoes on 11 days in 2007).

Thunderstorm wind damage was reported on 65 days (compared to 59 days in 2007).

Severe hail was reported on 45 days (compared to 36 days in 2007).

Flash floods were reported on 28 days (compared to 15 days in 2007).

Warnings Issued for Alabama by the National Weather Service:

Tornado Warnings - **401** (306 in 2007)

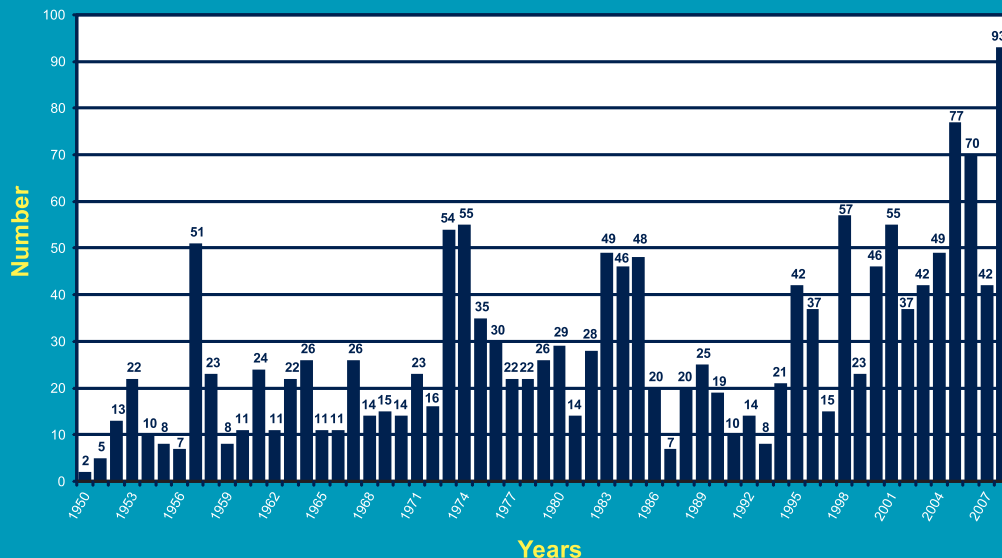
Severe Thunderstorm Warnings - **958** (680 in 2007)

Flash Flood Warnings - **71** (101 in 2007)

Total - **1430** (1087 in 2007)

The National Weather Service does not issue warnings for lightning because all thunderstorms contain lightning. In 2008, there were over ten reports of structural damage caused by lightning. Across the state, six people were injured from lightning strikes, and one horse was killed after being struck by lightning in Cherokee County. Lightning also caused power outages across parts of Covington County and in the city of Huntsville.

Alabama Tornado Count By Year
1950 - 2008



The year 2008 was a record-breaking year for tornadoes. A total of 93 tornadoes touched down across the state, including three EF3 tornadoes and two EF4 tornadoes. Five people lost their lives, and approximately 70 were injured.

There were six distinct tornado outbreaks in which more than five tornadoes occurred on a single day across the state last year. Perhaps the two most devastating outbreaks would be the "Super Tuesday" outbreak on February 6th and the outbreak of tornadoes associated with Tropical Storm Fay on Aug 24th-25th. The other outbreaks occurred on Feb. 17th, Apr. 11th, and May 8th.